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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/080,822	02/22/2002	Kuniyoshi Maruyama	597/1/005	9540

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EXAMINER

KYLE, MICHAEL J

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3676

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/080,822

Applicant(s)

MARUYAMA, KUNIYOSHI

Examiner

Michael J Kyle

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oshima (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0074265) in view of Ewing (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0095928).
3. Oshima discloses a managing and charging system on an internet where a person (page 9, paragraph [0131]) whose address is not open to the public can post a message, comprising a storage unit (paragraph [0025]) for storing a mail address, application receiving means (second terminal 90, described in the abstract, lines 16-18) for receiving an application by a visitor ("giver"), confirmation means responsive to the application receiving means for confirming to the visitor, the receiver of the gift and visitor's consent to payment (page 7, paragraph [0088]), and payment processing means for processing and confirming payment completion (page 7, paragraph [0088]). Oshima also discloses the system to includes means to initiate delivery of the gift to the identified posted person by using physical distribution means following confirmation of the payment completion (page 7, paragraph [0088]). The examiner asserts that physical (non-electronic) gift must be delivered using physical distribution means. Oshima does not explicitly disclose the address notifying means as claimed.

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4. Ewing teaches a blind gift system whereby one user can send a gift, or gifts, to another user. One user goes through a set of initial steps to set up the system (paragraph [0025]). In one situation, a member's true full name and address information may be transmitted without requiring coordination with the giftee when the payment completion is confirmed (paragraph [0028]). This allows the users to communicate freely without having to use the gift system. Examiner notes that when payment is confirmed, the gift sender may be notified of the members address without requiring coordination, as the member, or giftee, has the option of permitting this, upon sign-up, as discussed in paragraph [0025]. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Oshima as taught by Ewing, in order to allow communication outside of the electronic system. The invention resulting from this combination would then send the address of the person whose address is not known to the public to the visitor in response to the visitor sending a gift.

5. With respect to claim 9, Oshima discloses a method for operating a managing and charging system on an internet where a person (page 9, paragraph [0131]) whose address is not open to the public can post a message, comprising storing a mail address (paragraph [0025]) of an identified posted person, receiving, at the system, an application by a visitor ("giver"), utilizing the system for confirming to the visitor the receiver of the gift and visitor's consent to payment (page 7, paragraph [0088]), and utilizing payment processing means at the system for processing and confirming payment completion (page 7, paragraph [0088]). Oshima also discloses the system to includes means to initiate delivery of the gift to the posted person by using physical distribution means following confirmation of the payment completion (page 7,

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paragraph [0088]). The examiner asserts that physical (non-electronic) gift will and must be delivered using physical distribution means. Oshima does not explicitly disclose utilizing the system for notifying the visitor of the mail address of the identified posted person.

6. Ewing teaches a blind gift system whereby one user can send a gift, or gifts, to another anonymous user. In one situation, the system is utilized to notify a user of a member's true full name and address information without requiring coordination with giftee, or identified person.

In paragraph [0025], Ewing discussed a series of initial steps a user goes through when signing up for the service. One of the options is to have their address and full name sent to somebody that sends them a gift. This is specified before somebody actually sends them a gift. Therefore, at the time when payment for a gift is completed and confirmed, a user's address is transmitted to the gift sender without any coordination at that time. This allows the users to communicate freely without having to use the gift system. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify Oshima as taught by Ewing, in order to allow communication outside of the electronic system. The invention resulting from this combination would then send the address of the person whose address is not known to the public to the visitor immediately and directly in response to the visitor sending a gift. Examiner asserts that because the combination of Oshima and Ewing disclose all of the claimed structure of the instant application that the combination is capable of providing the claimed function of "notifying" immediately and directly following confirmation of payment completion.

Response to Arguments

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7. Applicant's arguments filed November 12, 2004, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

8. As an initial matter, examiner refers to Ewing, where paragraph [0025] sets forth a series of initial steps and inquiries that a user goes through upon signing up for the system. These inquiries are described in paragraphs [0026-0028]. In paragraph [0028], Ewing discusses how giftee may respond in the case of receiving a gift. One of the responses includes providing the giftee's true full name and address. This is a preset and automatic option that the giftee has the choice of selecting upon initially signing up for the service. This step occurs directly and immediately after the in response to the giftor paying for a gift, and the gift being accepted. Examiner notes that in paragraph [0028], Ewing discloses the transmission of the giftee's true full name and address to be in response to a "successfully-completed blind gift delivery transactions". Examiner considers the blind gift delivery transaction occur once the gift is accepted according the giftee's preset preferences, not actually upon receipt of the gift, because delivery process will be initiated when the gift is accepted.

9. Applicant states that in the newly presented amended claims, it is recited that no communication, such as permission or instructions from the posting person are required in order for their address to be transmitted to a gift sender. Examiner recognizes this limitation in claims 8 and 9. However, the claim limitations state that this occurs "when the payment completion is confirmed". In Ewing, as discussed above, giftee (also referred to as a posted person or identified person) may set up the system when initially signing up. If the giftee set the system up so that their full name and address are transmitted in response receiving a gift, then this step happens automatically, at the time when payment is confirmed, without any further coordination

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from the giftee. The system does not go back and ask for instructions from the giftee, but rather, checks the preset options of the giftee, to determine the response to a gift. The situation exists where the giftee's address is automatically sent to the visitor.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

11. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J Kyle whose telephone number is 703-305-3614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

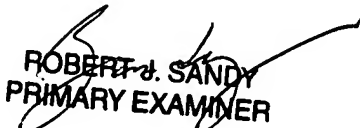
13. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Judy Swann can be reached on 703-306-4115. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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14. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

mk

Judy Swann
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ROBERT J. SANDY
PRIMARY EXAMINER